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The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 5 OCTOBER 4, 2004

Varsity Stadium deal falls through the bleachers

U of T scraps plans to contruct new facilities at a cost of $100M

BY JULIE TYIOS

It seems that the U of T's hopes for a better Varsity Stadium have been shattered. Last Thursday, the university announced its decision not to go ahead with the project on account of the increasing costs of constructing the stadium.

The U of T administrator in charge of the Varsity Stadium project, vice-president and chief advancement officer, Jon Dellandrea, stated in a press release,

"We are deeply disappointed that we will not be moving forward with this exciting and innovative project. Unfortunately rising costs force us to make this fiscally responsible decision."

Plans have been in the works since 2000 to build a new stadium and sports complex over the site of the old Varsity Stadium. In addition to the stadium itself, the project also had plans for an ice rink, ground-level retail space, and offices for faculty use.

As originally planned, the cost of the project was estimated at $80 million. The size and nature of the stadium, however, required an area slightly larger than that which is currently available to build on. Portions of the complex would have to be built over Toronto streets, causing road renovations that would bump up the price of the project. The costs involved in altering the roads around the site increased the total costs of the project to over $100 million.

"We are deeply disappointed by this outcome as we had hoped to go forward to Governing Council with an exciting proposal for a facility that

See Plug, page 3

photo/Adrian Barek

Current plans for the Varsity Stadium site are up in the air as administration made the decision to pull the plug on the project on September 30th. The project would have seen a partnership with Canadian government, the Toronto Argonauts and the Canadian Soccer Association to help alleviate the funding, but due to unforeseen costs associated with the contruction, the university decided not to go ahead with it. As for now, students will have to make use of the current grounds for their athletic needs until a new plan can be put into effect.

Missing celebrity DJ does not disrupt pub fun

DJ Starting from Scratch does not show up for Style n' Profile pub night

BY JULIE TYIOS

Last Thursday, several hundred students were left slightly disappointed in the wake of a pub night gone wrong. Scheduled to make an appearance was Mark Gagnon, also known as DJ Starting from Scratch, of Flow 93.5 fame in Toronto. As per contract, he was originally planned to host and spin for the pub night that the Style n' Profile club was hosting at the Blind Duck Pub. By the time doors were set to open at 10 p.m., he had still not made an appearance.

"We had no idea where he was," said Style n' Profyle executive Cari Salib. "No one had heard from him at all and we couldn't get a hold of him. We tried calling but his phone just kept ringing without an answer. We didn't know the entire night if he was going to be there or not or if something had happened to him."

Every student was refunded the advance ticket price of $7, despite the pub night still achieving success. Students still had a good time, owing mainly to the spur of the moment efforts by DJ Mayhem, who stepped in to take over Starting from Scratch's unfilled position.

"We had so many people come up to us and ask why they were getting their money back," said Salib. "We had to ask DJ Mayhem to step in and spin for us and he really did save the pub. The students all said they had a good time anyway, but we had to do what we felt was right. We had promised DJ Starting from Scratch and he never showed up, so there was no way we could take money from the students for this. At the end of the night, everything turned out ok and we were extremely pleased with the crowd's attitude; it helped a lot."

Allegations from each side have compounded the problem, as each claims that the other had breached the contract first. According to contract, signed on September 6, of this year, DJ Starting from Scratch was to be paid half the amount promised before the show and given the rest after. He claimed however, the he believed he was entitled to the money prior to the night of the event and had also not heard from any club representatives previous to the start of the pub.

"I never heard from anybody till approximately 8:30 p.m. [that] night, but, by then, I was already home & my phone was off," he explained. "I do this for a living and I've never just not shown up for a gig, it's not in my nature and I wouldn't be where I am today if I conducted business that way" he said.

"We have quite a bit of damage in terms of our reputation, not to mention the financial losses we are facing from the pub," explained Salib. "Not only is it expensive to rent the pub, but we also spent a lot on advertising the event and also on a top-of-the-line sound system." The club is currently contemplating legal action against DJ Starting from Scratch, in order to cover some of their financial losses.

"I apologize to anyone that I upset or disappointed," stated DJ Starting from Scratch. "But, do understand that this wasn't a case of me just not feeling to go out, or that I found something better to do. Really and truly, if they plan on legal action, there's nothing I can do about that; but they need to understand that they broke the terms of the contract first, which lets me out of the contract."

The amount that Style n' Profyle is asking for from DJ Starting from Scratch is currently undecided.

"I'm fully willing to do another event, if anyone's interested" said DJ Starting from Scratch. "And we'll make sure that all that is signed on is fulfilled."

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I apologize to anyone that I upset or disappointed... this wasn't a case of me just not feeling to go out, or that I found something better to do."

– DJ Starting from Scratch, page 2

Student Centre hosts Volunteer Fair

BY JULIE TYIOS

Last Wednesday, hundreds of students were met with the opportunity to get involved in volunteering, both off-campus and on. The UTM Career Centre held its annual Volunteer Fair, an event which drew thirty-eight different organizations into the Student Centre to present opportunities for students to help out in the community.

Students were met with an array of display tables and handouts from each group, promoting their cause. Participants ranged from the Sexual Education Centre (SEC) on campus, to the Peel Auxiliary Police and the Canadian Cancer Society.

"We encourage students to volunteer" said Heather Hines, events and outreach coordinator with the Career Centre. "Employers like to see volunteer work on a student's resume. It shows that this person has done more than go to class and or work a part-time job. This person has chosen to get involved in their community. The combination of these experiences generally tends to create better rounded individuals with strong leadership skills. Our hope with the volunteer fair is that it provides a forum where organizations that rely on volunteers and students can meet and hopefully find a match in each other."

"I didn't expect to find so much, and I think I will volunteer, it's cool and fun" said first-year student Ryan Seaton.

"I am incredibly happy to be here," said UTM Environmental Affairs Officer Aubrey Iwaniw, who was promoting both environmental initiatives on campus as well as the new fair-trade coffee now available on-campus at Spigel Hall. "The initiatives I'm discussing are being well-received by the students, and more are signing up as volunteers than expected. I'm happy to see so many environmental and earth sciences booths set up, it shows the commitment the university is making to its new mandate."

"It great being here, there's a high turnout and it's great to let the students know what we're all about" said Renjith Vengalil of the Peel Auxiliary Police.

> "I didn't expect to find so much, and I think I will volunteer, it's cool and fun" - Ryan Seaton

"Judging by the turnout, the fair was very well received by students and participants alike" noted Hines.

"A few participants actually ran out of their literature due to the high student interest in volunteering with their organizations. One-hundred percent of the fair respondents said that attending the fair was worthwhile and given the opportunity, they would attend again."

The Career Centre encourages all students to drop by and take advantage of the resources they offer, including peer and professional counselling. As well, all students who volunteer forty or more hours throughout the school year and submit their hours to Student Affairs will be eligible for a UTM Volunteer Recognition Certificate, signed by the Principal. Volunteer opportunities are available all year through the Career Centre online at www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers.

photo/Christelle Thibault

Last Wednesday saw hundreds of students crowd into the Student Centre to check out the annual Volunteer Fair, hosted by the Career Centre. Students were encouraged to submit their names and get involved in both the campus and surrounding community.

Students learn about Sikhs

BY MARYANGEL MENDOZA

Last week, UTM was invited to participate in Sikh Awareness Week, hosted by the Sikh Student Association (SSA). The mission of this association is to promote awareness of the Sikh faith to Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike, which they did by hosting various events that were open to all students.

A belief central to Sikhism is equality. Sikhs believe that everyone has the responsibility to help those that are less fortunate and that it is everyone's duty to have an active role in caring for humanity. The three fundamental pillars of Sikhism are prayer, work and charity, and these pillars were evident this past week on campus in all the displays and activities that promoted Sikh awareness.

On Monday, there was a display to introduce Gatka, "the dance of the swords;" which is the practice of Sikh martial arts. Wednesday featured a film festival and Thursday, the final event, was a food sharing activity called Langar. The latter two of these day-long events were held in the Presentation room of the Student Centre.

The Gatka demonstrations were presented by performers from the Dixie Road Gurdwara, or temple. Sikhism is one of the most deeply spiritual and mystical religions of the world; even so the Sikh community is also a military-based warrior community willing to fight, sacrifice, or assassinate to protect the community.

"Gatka is not just martial arts; there is a lot of meaning behind the movements" said SSA president, Meeta Kaur. "To us, those that practice Gatka are Warrior Saints." To the Sikh a true warrior is free from all worldly attachments.

In an interview Kaur, *the Medium* learned that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the June 1984 genocide. The movie shown at the film festival depicted the events of this tragedy. People were gathered at a Sikh temple in India when massive shooting erupted. The premise was that they were looking for terrorists that were said to be hiding in the temple. Innocent people, both young and old were killed that day. Many of the holy books, which were in the temple, were burned and ripped beyond repair. This genocide was called Operation Blue Star. The people were disheartened that this could happen in their holy temple. Many believed that the government had instigated these attacks thus failing to do much of an investigation. This led to mobs that began killing innocent people right in the middle of the street. There were 4000 deaths as a result of Operation Blue Star.

The Langar tradition began due to the various Castes in India. Those who belonged to the lowest Caste were not even allowed to look at those of higher Castes without their permission, which was seldom given. The first prophet established Langar so that all people regardless of Caste could sit together and enjoy food in the temple.

"Therefore Langar, and Sikh awareness day, is to promote unity as well as the diversity we find here at UTM," says Kaur. Any food can be served for Langar, and Thursday's event presented Roti and a variety of other traditional Indian dishes.

"It is very important that students here at UTM see the diversity that we have on campus and to get common misconceptions about Sikhs out of their head, especially since 9/11," emphasizes Kaur. Sikh Awareness week utilized 20 volunteers who organized the event as well as many SSA members that dropped by to help.

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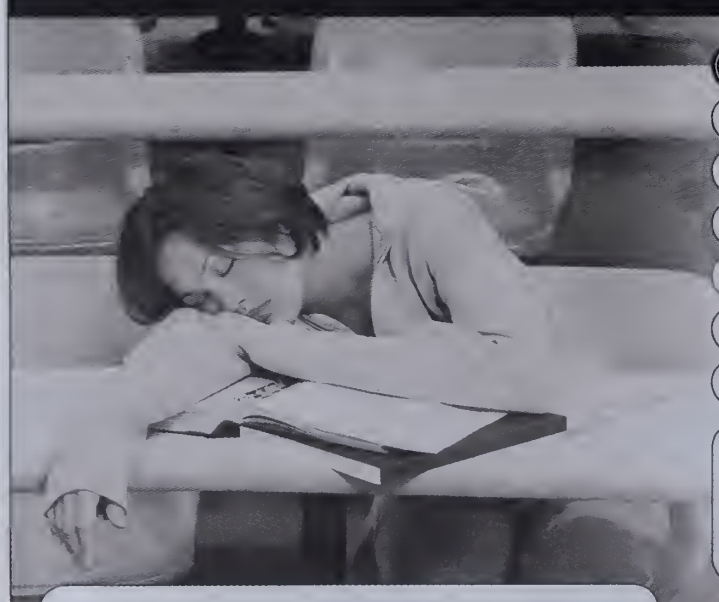

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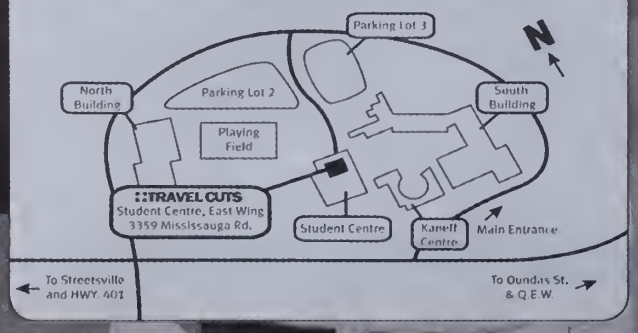

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Plug pulled on new stadium plans

Continued from front

could have served and met the needs of the university community, the broad external community, as well as of our partners in this project," Frank Iacobucci, interim president of the U of T stated in a separate memo issued on the university's website. "Regrettably, we have determined that owing to design complexities the project has grown from an estimated $80 million to one in excess of $100 million. It would not be fiscally responsible for us to proceed given other financial pressures that the university is facing."

Throughout the project, the U of T was looking to create one or more partnerships with outside organizations to aid in funding the project. Among the groups solicited to aid in the funding of the stadium were the federal and provincial governments, the Toronto Argonauts football team, and the Canadian Soccer Association. The latter two organizations were willing to chip in funding in return for use of the sports complex during their respective seasons. Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment (MLSE) was also part of the planning, but they jumped ship earlier in the year when a satisfactory deal could not be reached.

All partners would have to sign into a lease with the university in order to ensure the funding of the project, which is risky if the Argos football franchise risks bankruptcy again. In the event that a partner fell through, the university would be left to cover the remaining expenses on its own, something for which there is currently no room in the university's total budget.

Administrators at UTM had their share of opinions about the cancellation of the project. UTM principal Ian Orchard said,

"The students of U of T deserve outstanding facilities for athletics and recreation, and I am disappointed that the Varsity project is not moving forward. I fully understand the university's position though, since the costs are now estimated at being in excess of $100 million and only $80 million was available. The university is being fiscally responsible in not proceeding with this project."

At this point in time, U of T officials are currently re-evaluating their options for the Varsity Stadium site under the current budget available to the university.

"I would love to see more government and outside support for expanding on-campus student life facilities, reducing the draw on students' and the university's pockets," said dean of student affairs Mark Overton. "The Varsity Stadium project had some of that potential, and UTM went through similar ups and downs with potential funding partnerships to expand our athletics and recreation facilities. UTM students can finally see progress here on the Wellness Centre construction site; I hope all U of T students can benefit from a new plan for the Varsity Stadium site in the near future."

Feral cats find home on campus

BY DOROTA KOSINSKA

UTM recently added several new members to its community, free of incidental fees. There have been some newborn additions to the family of black and white feral cats living on campus behind the Student Centre. This has given rise to a lot of excitement at Erindale, but also many apprehensions.

The feline wanderers have been welcomed into the UTM community and have even earned honorary titles like "The Jungle Cats" or "Jackson," a name that Jessica Sacripante, a student at Erindale has decided to bestow onto the mother, on account of her black and white coloring. The cats have become a big hit with animal lovers on campus, as many students have stopped to gawk at, pet, and feed the animals.

Although many students have taken onto themselves the task of feeding them, the cats are also giving back to Erindale in their own way.

"This is community building; as cat people can meet other cat people by way of this joint interest," said Aubrey Iwaniw, environmental affairs officer at Erindale. However, she also points out that the cats have begun to take on a sort of mascot identity for Erindale, and attachment to them may cause much unpleasantness if they ever are found to be run over or in any other desperate state. There has also been some concern about diseases that the cats may carry, such as rabies or cat scratch fever.

Despite their cute and harmless appearance, the cats are still considered wild animals that can come in contact with other animals that may be carrying transferable diseases. There is now potential concern for students on campus being harmed while interacting with the cats. This is one reason that feeding the cats is discouraged, as when animals begin to associate humans with food, they acquire boldness in approach.

"There is the potential for a cat to bite someone, if that person is not aware that it is a feral cat," says Paul Handley, assistant director of residence facilities. "This is especially true if they are holding out their hands with food." He added, however, that there have been talks with Animal Services and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to determine how to deal with any potential threat of disease as well as to try to distinguish the feral cats from any loose domestic cat on campus.

On account of the risks of transferable diseases, students who have feline pets are advised not to let them roam campus grounds, keep garbage closed, and not to leave doors which have been propped open unattended.

"The cost of removing wildlife from inside buildings comes out to a couple of hundred dollars, as only private companies provide such services. Animal Control only responds to animal distress," says Len Paris, manager of police services. However, there has been concern for the cats' wellbeing, which has also lead some to look to the Humane Society, but such intentions have proved fruitless as the cats are recognized as part of the wildlife and therefore cannot be taken in.

Although no one has yet claimed ownership of the animals, the campus "Jungle Cats" have succeeded in making a home for themselves. While some students are worried that excessive feeding will impair the cats' hunting skills, many students are now attached to the cats and do not want to see them removed from campus. Said one anonymous student, "Let them be, cats generally have a knack for survival."

photo/Denyse Gibson

Pictured is the mother of the litter which has made a home on campus.

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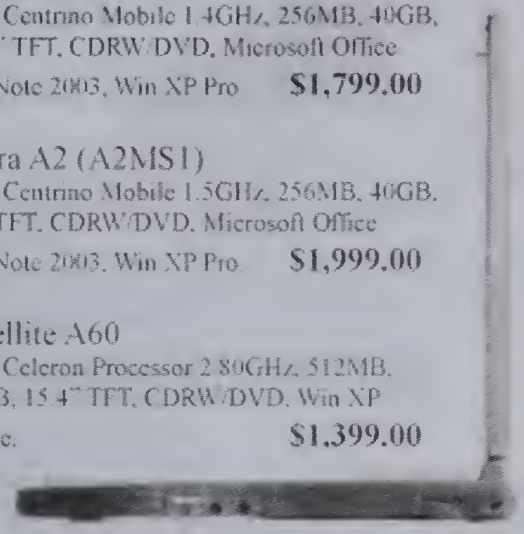

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News Bits

SAC to refund student money

Students covered under SAC's health plan for the 2003-2004 year will soon be receiving reimbursement in the mail by form of cheque. Following a change in insurance providers and paying off a legal settlement for breach of contract, SAC is doling out nearly $30 of left-over monies to each student involved. Cheques will be mailed in the spring.

Health Services warn of bees

With the recent wave of warm weather, there is a higher risk of bee stings on campus. Three students that had been stung on campus suffered serious reactions two weeks ago, ending up in hospital with anaphylactic shock. Students are encouraged to dial 911 in the event that they see someone who is stung suffering from a reaction.

the 2005 Awards of EXCELLENCE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

UTAA

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Information and application forms are also available at www.alumni.utoronto.ca

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A prize recognizing positive and lasting contributions to education and action in the fight against discrimination. Faculty, staff and students may be nominated for this award.

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Information and nomination forms are also available at www.alumni.utoronto.ca

Campus Police Reports

September 9, 2004 @ 10:41pm
Intoxication in a public place
University Police were contacted to attend the Blind Duck Pub. A student was intoxicated and unable to care for herself. Her guardian transported her home.

September 9, 2004 @ 6:15pm
Theft under $ 5000.00
A staff member reported the theft of a computer tower from an office in the South Building.

September 10, 2004 @ 4:15pm
Theft from Auto
A student reported the theft of her UTM parking pass.

September 15, 2004 @ 12:20pm
Criminal Harassment
A student reported being harassed by her ex-boyfriend. A report was filed and a description of the suspect was also furnished. Investigation is continuing.

September 15, 2004 @ 10:45am
Theft of Auto
A student reports the theft of his motor vehicle from Lot # 8. The vehicle was later recovered off campus.

September 16, 2004 @ 01:20am
Theft of Auto
University Police investigated a suspicious vehicle parked near the Central Utilities Plant. The driver was investigated and subsequently was issued a ticket for trespassing.

September 16, 2004 @ 10:40pm
Liquor Licence Act Infraction
A student attempted to gain entry into the Blind Duck Pub using identification not belonging to him. The student was subsequently banned from the pub for one year.

September 16, 2004 @ 10:57pm
Trespass to Property Act
Two males not affiliated with the university were issued Provincial Offences tickets when they attempted to re-enter the Blind Duck Pub after being requested to leave by staff.

September 16, 2004 @ 11:32pm
Trespass to Property Act
A male that refused to leave the Blind Duck Pub was issued a Provincial Offences Ticket for failing to leave when directed by University Police.

September 17, 2004 @ 11:13am
Fraud
A motor vehicle was observed displaying a fraudulent parking permit. Charges against the owner and another student are pending.

September 20, 2004 @ 10:40pm
Mischief under $ 5000.00
A student reports that person(s) unknown vandalized a sign inside Erindale Hall. The sign was seized and returned to Residence Office for repairs.

September 20, 2004 @ 12:45pm
Mischief under $ 5000.00
A student reports that that her vehicle was damaged in Lot # 5. Person(s) unknown had scratched the hood of her car.

September 21, 2004 @10:15am
Theft from Auto
A student reports the theft of his UTM parking pass from an off campus location.

September 24, 2004 @ 11:55pm
Fire Alarm
(Malicious false alarm)
Roy Ivor Hall was evacuated as a result of someone activating a pull station in A Block Ground Floor. Mississauga Fire Dept. attended.

September 26, 2004 @ 2:30pm
Fire Alarm
(False alarm)
Contractor's work activated a fire alarm in the CCIT. Building was not evacuated. Mississauga Fire Department attended.

September 27, 2004 @ 8:35am
Hate Crime / Graffiti
A poster was defaced in the North Building. The poster was for an event being hosted by a student club.

September 27, 2004 @ 3:30pm
Theft Under $5000.00
(From Auto)
Student's vehicle, parked in Lot 8, was broken into. Culprit(s) stole a UTM Parking pass, CD deck and an organizer.

September 27, 2004 @ 3:30pm
Harassment
A male reported another person being harassed by a UTM student. The UTM student was contacted by University Police and cautioned accordingly.

September 28, 2004 @ 11:47pm
Controlled Substance Use
Three males, non community members, were banned from UTM campus by University Police for using marijuana near Erindale Hall.

September 29, 2004 @ 12:15pm
Motor Vehicle Accident
Failed to Remain
A student reported her vehicle damaged in Lot 4 on Monday, September 20th, 2004. The driver of the other vehicle left the scene . Campus police are investigating.

TEACHING & EDUCATION FAIR

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 11:00-2:00, Student Centre

Speak with admission representatives from Ontario Faculties of Education such as OISE/UT, York, Western, Queens (and more) and learn about international programs including those in Buffalo, Australia and others.
Same day information sessions will be held by OISE/UT (1-2, NE134), Western Faculty of Education (2-3, NE134) and Australearn (3-4, Student Centre Boardroom). Complete participant list online.

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS FAIR

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 11:00-2:00, Student Centre

Speak with admission representatives from programs such as Law, Medicine, Dentistry, MBA, Graduate Studies,
Pharmacy, Social Work, Optometry, Accounting, Post-Graduate Diploma Programs, Rehab Sciences, and more!
Plus information sessions by Logan Chiropractic (2-3, Student Centre Boardroom) and University of Calgary Graduate Studies (3-4, Student Centre Boardroom). Complete participant list online.

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Editorial & Letters

THE MEDIUM

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Varsity Stadium Blues

EDITORIAL

U of T sports fans suffered two tough losses last week. On Saturday, the U of T football team lost its homecoming game against Windsor, 47-10. On the Wednesday prior, U of T lost the game of building itself a new sports stadium.

The homecoming loss seemed only fitting. The U of T Varsity Blues played a dismal game on a dismal day in a dismal field. This field was once surrounded by a proud stadium but is now strewn with portable buildings and temporary bleachers. Until U of T's announcement last week, players on Varsity field were comforted by the fact that a new stadium was in the works. That stadium is no longer in the works, it is in the dumps. Varsity Stadium is now nothing more than a field of dreams.

A press release issued by the university last Thursday expressed the 'regret' felt by U of T planners that the project had been cancelled. The reason it was cancelled? Building the facility was too expensive. Reading the press release, you have to wonder about the university's rationale for not following through on the project. The press release quotes vice-president and chief advancement officer Jon Dellandrea, as saying,

"Due to the design complexities related to size and configuration of the project, costs have risen from an $80-million project to one far in excess of $100 million." Now let me ask you, what is wrong with this statement? If design comlexities made the project too expensive, why did the university not simplify the design to save costs? Everyone wants a top notch facility, but if U of T's pockets aren't deep enough to finance the best of the best, is it really not feasible to settle for second best?

The cancellation of this project gives me a sense of déjà vu. Many of the new U of T buildings constructed recently have fallen short of their original designs. Project committees working at this university seem to have been bitten by the 'overly ambitious planning' bug. Whenever plans for a new building are in the works, those in charge shoot for the stars but end up on a mountain top.

This phenomenom is not limited to St. George. Those of us on the west side of town have witnessed the same situation. The most visible source of over-the-top planning is UTM's new Athletic, Health and Wellness Centre (even the name of the thing is overdone). New students at UTM know little about this facility other than the giant dirt pit sitting on the south side of campus. What some don't know is that this facility has some noteworthy history behind it.

When the project was first presented to the UTM community by its planners, it boasted three separate buildings. The main athletic centre would be a grand structure housing a 25-metre swimming pool, indoor running track, sports medicine clinic, change rooms, cardio, strength, and weights equipment and all the amnemities. In addition, a covered field house and an outdoor ice rink would also be constructed separately. This bold endeavour carried a price-tag of $39 million; a hefty sum that would be funded by several parties including the university, students, and fundraising.

A partnership would be reached, we were told, between UTM and an outside organization who would share in the funding and use of the facility. No such partnership was reached. The $8 million fundraising effort generated a paltry half million dollars. When both partnership and fundraising fell short, the project was scaled back. Three stand alone buildings became one addition to the South Building that reuses the exisiting athletics centre. A gap in funding remained, and more student funds were added to pay the bill.

With all that, you still have to give some credit to UTM. A new athletic centre is being constructed as you read this, and will open in the next few years. At least the planners behind UTM's building managed to make that building a reality; albeit not the reality that was originally envisioned. U of T, on the other hand, simply gave up.

Perhaps this is just the way buildings are built. Maybe planning big and building a little less than big is a common approach. Even if scaled back projects are common, U of T has still let down a lot of people with the cancellation of the Varsity Stadium project.

In the end, maybe I'm just bitter because I'm a football fan. Returning to my alma matter sometime in the future, I'd like to catch a football game. Whether or not our team is any better then than they are now doesn't matter. I just want to be able to return to St. George, sit in Varsity Stadium, and beathe in that chill campus air the same way I did in my first year.

Till next time...

Adrian Barek

THE MEDIUM is published weekly by Medium II Publications; a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. THE MEDIUM's mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism.

Denyse is the bravest photo editor this paper has ever seen. She braved an onslaught of wildlife including skunks, raccoons, and possums, oh my. All this for some pics of cute little kitties who may very well have been eaten by said wildlife after Denyse left and all this in the dark. Some sweet pics for the Sports section very nice. And Nadeem is done features on Saturday that is fucking great. Already people at UTM are offended by the Fyp push ads. I should have known. Perseverence. It is now 3:30 where no I squared? Julie bought a snake today, and she will be bringing it in for show and tell. Too bad for SAP about the loud DJ no need to fear. DJ Mayhem is here. Andrea is way early today, she just loves this place that much. Pizza is on the way. YAY! Denyse is late boo! Taras is the poster master great to have some help around here with this damn party. Denyse's love for animals inspired some love between a raccoon and a cat who I'm sure would otherwise have clawed each other to death. Campus Police reports are going back in the Medium after a brief absence. Julie bought a shirt. I can't freakin believe it. Sean is sitting in my office and distracting both me and Andrea. He is gone now and I can finish. Booyah!

A student mourns Sabra and Shatilla

Another September 18th passes without registering even a blip on media radars; not unlike every year. This was the 22nd anniversary of Sabra and Shatilla: a Palestinian refugee camp in Southern Lebanon that was attacked in 1982 by soldiers trained, equipped, supplied and under the orders of Arial Sharon. The Israeli Occupation force secured the perimeter of the camp and stood watch as members of the Phalange militia slaughtered 3500 people. The victims included infants, children, women (including pregnant women), and elderly inhabitants, some of whom were mutilated or disemboweled before or after they were killed. Young men were summarily executed while women and girls were repeatedly raped.

One of the first journalists on the scene was Thomas Friedman of the New York Times, who wrote,

"Mostly I saw groups of young men in their twenties and thirties who had been lined up against walls, tied by their hands and feet, and then mowed down gangland-style with fusillades of machine-gun fire."

A man of many talents, Sharon has recently been referred to as 'the US-approved good genocidist', 'the butcher of Lebanon', and earlier this year as a 'man of peace' by US president Bush.

As a Palestinian and a person of conscience I felt a moral obligation to hold a vigil outside the Israeli embassy at 180 Bloor Street West in Toronto. Alone and determined to show solidarity with the memory of the victims of the massacre, I taped up a sign that read 'We will not forget Sabra & Shatilla', lit candles and tried to distribute fact sheets with the morbid statistics of the massacre.

I stood for over two hours lighting and re-lighting blown out and kicked over candles, but the majority of passers-by were uninterested. Within the span of two hours my faith in humanity was severely shaken. Passers-by hurled insults at me, called me anti-Semitic, kicked over my candles and spat on me. I craved for a sign of compassion or understanding. An elderly couple stopped, concerned and interested in learning more. They seemed sympathetic until they learned that the victims were Palestinian, at which point the woman threw the papers back in my face in disgust and swore at me.

I was not interested in politics or philosophizing over a solution to the crisis. All I wanted to do was mourn. I wanted to mourn the 3500 victims in peace. I wanted to feel that their worth as human beings was at least acknowledged. Further down the street was an animal rights activist that was being inundated with requests for more information and donations to help stop the testing of medical and cosmetic products on animals. No one showed as much concern for the loss of Palestinian life.

I stood quietly, hoping for a gesture of compassion. I refused to believe that the same public that mourned the 2823 victims of 9/11 could be so apathetic to the massacre of over 3500 innocent Palestinian refugees. Towards the end of my solitary vigil, a man twice my height and at least 300 pounds approached waving his fist violently. He cried out 'all you motherfuckers should die' and mumbled something inaudibly about the twin towers. This angry and grossly misinformed man, who stood above me ready to assault, was convinced that I, as one of 'them,' was to blame for the attack on the world trade center. Others stood by watching without offering any aid.

I went home that night with a bruised arm, fingers burnt from the persistent candle lighting, and a deep sense of failure. There are so many massacres to remember and many more that are being committed as this passage is being read. This world's disinterest is not only shameful, but a hard-hitting testimonial to the failure of our humanity. That night, I went home certain of some things. It became clear to me that as a Muslim, I can have all the civil liberties and basic rights and freedoms guaranteed to me as a Canadian by the charter of rights and freedoms stripped from me at any time by anyone with no consequence. More than that, I also don't have the right to mourn. In our society, animal rights take precedence over the rights of human beings. These human rights are systematically targeted by a process of ethnic cleansing that has consistently been at the forefront of the practical and supremacist realization of the Zionist ideology.

I feel that the worst is yet to come.

Sarah Karmi

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Too few non-meat food options on campus

As a first year student living on residence, I am feeling a little lost and confused about how much food I should buy each week. Last week, I ran out of food on Wednesday, and discovered that, as a vegan, I have four (relatively) healthy options for eating on campus. These include a veggie dog, a falafel pita, a hummus pita and a peanut butter bagel from good old Tim's.

I don't think I've ever been so enraged as I was upon visiting our local grease filled snack vendor, Tim Horton's. I ordered a 'whole wheat bagel, toasted with peanut butter.' I received a paper bag containing a burnt bagel, a frozen peanut butter package, and no knife.

Granted, I am a picky eater and some consider me high maintenance - if things were run my way, I'd have the bus come every five minutes, twenty four hours a day, just for my convenience. However, I didn't honestly think that after starving for a whole day, wanting two packs of peanut butter - which was what I paid for - spread on for me was too much to ask! So there I am running back to my residence, grabbing a knife, trying to spread one little packet of peanut butter on the bagel that Timmies cut into four pieces!

I am quite disappointed in UTM for leaving me with so few food options! I came into this campus under the impression that it was very eco-friendly, due to the tremendous amount of trees and animals and compost bins around. This is not as an attempt to persuade anyone to join me in the forces of becoming a vegan, but I feel as though UTM's environmental efforts are offset by the food available on campus.

In a nut shell, these are just some of the reasons why I perceive the vast amount of meat available on campus to be a problem. Disregarding the very well known problem of exploiting farm animals due to mass production, an issue closer to home would be that the consumption of meat encourages reckless AFO (animal feeding operations) which increases pollution and in turn degrades the quality of our air and water.

A lessened demand for meat would benefit in the increase in the amount of grain available to feed more people (think of the needy, not the greedy). Of course, living in a forest, I must mention that by supporting the meat industry by consuming meat would only further tarnish forests due to the methods used in the competitive world of mass producing meat. The ecosystem is a main concern when I address my problem of campus meat consumption because of the lack of support for those who chose to eat in ways that benefit the ecosystem as well as their health. I understand that I'm probably one of the very few vegans on campus, and I'm not demanding that a tremendous amount of vegan options pop up left and right all of us sudden, but I think that a bit more support for the non-meat eaters would really be appreciated.

Take a good look around you. We are living in a meat-eaters world, a world that is destructive to what makes UTM so unique and pretty in all seasons!

Nicole Tam

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Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, and coherence. Letters will not exceed 800 words in print.

Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be published.

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Arts & Entertainment

Don't rush to climb *Ladder 49*

By Peter Wolfraim

Movies like to pull a certain amount of emotions out of audience members; including fear, laughter, joy, horror, disgust, and pride. The new Touchstone Pictures movie *Ladder 49* attempts to play on this last one by focusing on firefighters.

Since September 11th, firefighters have been admired and beloved as a result of their bravery and selflessness. A nation's true heroes should be admired, but there are much better ways to do so than *Ladder 49*.

This firefighter flick was entertaining. Points go to the explosions, the rescues, and even some of the acting, particularly that of **Joaquin Phoenix,** a talented actor with a great film history. **John Travolta**'s character, intended to be an incredibly respected firefighter, was difficult for me to look up to given his work in previous films like *Battlefield Earth*, *Domestic Disturbance*, and *Swordfish*. Overall, the performances were mediocre, not spectacular. I didn't get tear-jerked by any one performance. However, the appearance of a low-key but entertaining actor, **Robert Patrick**, was a pleasant surprise.

The plot is simple and easy for anybody to follow. A firefighter trapped in a building reflects on his past, his families, and his fellow firefighters, while waiting for the regular 'fatherly figure' of the film to rescue him from the burning depths. You'll have to go see the film yourself if you want to find out how it ends.

Jay Russell did a good job as the director. He made sure that the audience was front row and center for all of the eye-popping action. I must tip my hat to special effects coordinator, **Larry Fioritto**, and technician **Barry McQueary**, because I was sitting on the edge of my seat for many of the great, fiery explosions.

I enjoyed the film because I found it to be an entertaining piece of action. However, that does not make it a good film. There is a big difference between a movie that entertains you and a well done film. If you want to see a good firefighting movie, see *Backdraft* or maybe even *The Towering Inferno*. If you simply want an entertaining flick, see *Ladder 49*.

Jack Morrison (Joaquin Phoenix) conducts a 'daring rescue' in the firefighter flick, *Ladder 49*. Not sure why he has the flashlight, the flames seem bright enough.

Shark Tale is a flood of funny moments

By Danial Raza

Every movie has a target audience and a set goal. If that goal is to make the audience scream, the movie has to be scary. If it's meant to make them laugh, like DreamWorks Animation's *Shark Tale*, it needs to be funny.

So was it funny? Let me put it this way: When you put the hilarious makers of *Shrek* and *Ice Age* together with an all-star cast consisting of **Will Smith**, **Renée Zellweger**, **Jack Black**, **Robert De Niro**, **Angelina Jolie**, and **Martin Scorsese**, you get one hell of an ab workout!

It seemed the whole theatre was laughing for the entire 90-minute production, particularly the girls beside me who laughed like hyenas. The film is so rammed with jokes it's impossible to catch them all. You'd have to watch it a few times to really appreciate the humour of the movie, and seeing it again is definitely on my to do list.

The movie's plot, however, was not a masterpiece. It was generally predictable, with a basic "best friend loves you, but you like the evil new girl" subplot. No real surprises in this area, which is a bummer; that's what you'd expect from a Disney cartoon. This is the only real downfall of the movie.

However, several features made up for the shallow plot. The setting was an ocean reef made to seem like New York City. From their versions of New York taxis to graffiti-filled slums to luxurious penthouse suits, DreamWorks brought something new to the table of animated film: urban life. The underwater thing has been done before with movies such as *Finding Nemo*, so this was a pleasant twist. The underwater ghetto paved the way for puns and jokes specific to the setting. They didn't shy away from using references to movies like *The Godfather*, *Titanic*, and *Jaws* to get audiences laughing. Many critics found this to be cheap; I found it to be rather clever.

The film has an amazing array of characters, each well suited to their respective actors. The main character, Oscar (Will Smith), reflected Smith's *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* persona, which is always good for laughs. The rest of the cast were funny, but more so because of the actual jokes than the actors behind them. There is one pair of characters not given the comedic credit they deserve. Ernie and Bernie (played by **Ziggy Marley** and **Doug E. Doug**, respectively), the Rastafarian jellyfish, were absolutely hysterical. This pair brought something fresh and new to animated film and worked well with the urban setting.

Though it isn't the greatest film of all time and not quite the movie *Shrek* was, *Shark Tale* is a movie you ought to watch if you're looking for a laugh. With the goods and the bads taken into account, I still give this movie two thumbs up and a bag of chips because it did what it set out to do: make me laugh.

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Lisa Loeb connects with the crowd at the El Mo

By Sarah Spencer
and Karita Mullins

Passing the line of about thirty ticketless yet hopeful fans as we walked up Spadina Avenue on September 20, we found ourselves at the doors of the legendary El Mocambo. Upon entering, we wondered what to expect from this two hit wonder, **Lisa Loeb**.

Loeb became semi-popular after her acoustic guitar driven single "Stay" was featured on the soundtrack to the 1994 movie *Reality Bites*. The sold-out crowd suggested to us that we could set our expectations high. After all, this is a singer who has maintained an underground following for more than ten years.

After a mediocre opening act by a man who lived across the street, Lisa Loeb emerged from the red velvet curtains, humbly taking the stage as if she were surrounded by her closest friends. Loeb's music and frequently spoken thoughts about "cakes and pies," along with the ambiance of the El Macombo, provided an intimate, relaxing and entertaining atmosphere that lasted all evening.

Loeb played some well-known favourites such as "Do You Sleep?" and "I Do," as well as many new songs off her newly released album *The Way It Really Is*. It seemed that there wasn't a single unsatisfied person in the entire adoring audience. She sang "Happy Birthday" for an older man sitting in the corner of the venue, which developed into an audience sing-along of "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head." She played audience requests too; it was as if the guitar had grown straight from her fingertips.

When Loeb occasionally forgot a chord or lyric; she would announce her memory loss, joke about it, and fumble around comfortably until she remembered again. Any audience member who was not in love before they saw her that night certainly left with a piece of her in their hearts. After her stellar performance which left the audience craving more, Loeb unexpectedly announced that she would stay to meet any fans who were willing to wait in the lobby.

This down-to-earth artist connected with her fans the entire evening. It was clear why she was still touring, and why her fan base keeps her growing. Lisa Loeb not only put on a fabulous performance, but she also gave her fans a special gift – a truly heartfelt connection to an artist who touched their lives during the past decade.

Local artist makes a charitable donation

BY HELENE BAHSOUS

"My paintings are emotional pieces, they have stories behind them," said Anna Silgardo describing her work which was showcased this weekend. Her exhibition, *Pieces of the Mind*, ran from October 1 to 3 in the Erindale Room of the Mississauga Central Library.

From life-like to more abstract depictions of nature, a lot of Silgardo's emotions are expressed in her paintings. With an interplay of vibrant colour and light, the brushstrokes of 'Sunset,' 'Thinking Youth' and 'Maple Trees' create a sense of movement and an overall peaceful atmosphere, while 'Rolling Waves' and 'Waves on Rocks' violently depict nature with rage and ferocity. Combining reds and orange, 'Fury' captures fire on the canvas, intertwined with graceful thick black strokes of animal figures.

At first glance, 'Sandbox' colourfully depicts people playing in a sandbox, yet for Silgardo it tells the story of the business world and the discrimination she experienced.

"It looks like a fun painting," she said of the painting, one of her earlier works. "But there is a lot of hurt."

Some of her paintings appear friendly and colourful; according to the artist, they are really just expressions of "day to day living." She explained "some paintings have stories to tell, some just moments." 'The Wedding Procession,' a personal favourite of the artist, conveys a "whole story; a child is off to be married, but there's different motives for the wedding, everyone's in their own different world." Of 'Emotional horses,' another one of her favourites, Silgardo said "I used my fingers to express my emotions."

Many of her close friends and a mix of previous and recent colleagues attended this exhibition. With viewer favourites like 'Evening Meal' and 'Meditation,' many admired the great detail in the brushstrokes of all the paintings. A close friend said that Silgardo was a born artist and admired how a lot of her emotions go into her work.

Silgardo has painted murals for schools and loves children in general, and, like most mothers, hers in particular. In fact, the main event surrounding this exhibition is the donation of one of Silgardo's paintings to Peel Children's Centre to be used for fundraising. It was a choice of Silgardo's to donate to the Centre.

"I am passionate about children," she said. "There's so many bad things happening to children and I wanted to do something, even in this small way."

The donated painting, 'Pixie's Village of Hope,' was kept hidden until the donation ceremony. Mr. Navdeep Bains (MP) presented the art work to Marla Bloomfield, who was accepting it on behalf of the Centre. Among other guests was Dr. Collins Saldanha, Chairman of the Mississauga Board of Trade, who was the MC for the event. Ryan Monteath, a collaborative and family friend of Silgardo's had some of his work featured in the exhibit as well.

B4 the Fringe shows UTM talent

BY BRENT WILSON

Theatre Erindale began its season this week with a program of one-act plays under the umbrella title of "B4 the Fringe." This festival of student productions consisted of four short plays (each under 50 minutes), featuring separate groups of actors, stage managers and directors, all of them UTM students or recent alumni.

photo/ Jim Smagata **The tension in this final scene of *Drawings* was so thick...**

The evening opened with *Heart's Desire*, written by Caryl Churchill. This play played with time and possibilities. Continuously looping back while still keeping forward momentum, it presented the audience with multiple possibilities as to where the narrative could go. These possibilities ranged from the pseudo-tragic to the ridiculously obscure.

Most of the comedy played well, due to the solid acting by Amanda Ives (Alice), Rebecca Warden (Maisie), Eric Double (Brian), Erick Fournier (Lewis), Joanna Douglas (Suzy) and Laura Biddle (Young Australian Woman). Musical segments were arranged and performed by Scott Pietrangelo while Tyler J. Seguin directed. The frantic pace of some of the action threatened to cause things to unravel, but everyone involved held it together. Overall, the production could use a little polish, but it still worked.

The next play was *Wasp*, written by Steve Martin, the Hollywood comedian who you might remember from such films as Mixed Nuts and The Muppet Movie. In my opinion, it was the best of the evening. *Wasp* focused on the lives of four members of an unusual 1950's family.

Martin's writing took the play from funny to melancholy and back to funny in a heartbeat, and made it work; directors/producers Lauren Cullen and Peter McLaren surely helped those transitions along. The actors played their roles beautifully, hitting the comedy dead on, and letting us feel the pathos of their characters fully. Katherine Kurt was particularly strong in the role of Mom. Dad was played by Josh Vokey, with Toni Maggio as Sis and Scott Pietrangelo as Son rounding out the family. Kevin Dowse played Premier, acting as choir master and butler as well as Son's friend. Female Voice was personified by Sonja Seiller.

The third play of the evening was *Talking With...*, a series of seven short monologues written by Jane Martin. The content of the monologues ranged from quite political to rather abstract and many places in between. It was definitely the most challenging material of the evening and was staged well by director Jenny Salisbury.

The performances were strong in this production as well, but Sarah Spencer deserves special mention for her segment entitled "Rodeo." The other actresses were Melanie Kastner, Diana Cofini, Aniko Kaszas, Karita Mullins, Johanna Kristolaitis and Brittany Wright-Aarssen.

The final play, *Drawings*, was an original comedy by UTM theatre student Kevin Dowse. Its heart was in the right place, but it seemed to be the most student-ish production of the evening. It probably suffered a bit for being placed next to the work of three established and award-winning professional playwrights. There were good ideas in the script and many of the jokes worked, but the potential of the ideas weren't realized; a bit more work on the script could change this.

Under the direction of Laura Braslins, the actors showcased the best the script has to offer. Each of the actors was well cast: Sean Lypacezewski as Charles, Laura Miyata as Bev, Lisa Li as Alice, Luc Forgeron as Dave and Chris Sironi as Danube. The dark comedy came through with their solid work.

All in all it was a solid, entertaining program. The three and a half hours passed quickly. Given that it was pay what you can, it was really hard to find a reason not to go. Theatre Erindale's "B4 the Fringe" played Thursday through Saturday night to mainly sold-out houses. Its counterpart "After the Fringe" showcases more student-run productions in the spring and should definitely be worth checking out.

Debut of unique tunes

BY LARISSA PALASZCZUK

There is music that uses sound and vibration instead of lyrics to provoke feelings and stir the imagination. The **Hammerhead Consort** is a quartet that does just this. Two pianists and two percussionists make famous compositions their own by using eclectic sounds from unusual instruments to create surreal "conversations."

The night began with an in-depth discussion with the musicians. They explained where their musical ideas originated and how it was going to be presented. As the night went on, this discussion seemed necessary to help the audience to understand the music.

The performance was comprised of five pieces, all from different composers. Each piece was over ten minutes, allowing the listener to lose him or herself in the fury of the conversation of sounds.

The first piece definitely set the tone for the evening. *Kolokolchiki* (meaning little bells in Russian) by **Keith Hamel** was inspired by composer **Nikolai Korndorf** who used bells in most of his work. I never thought a xylophone, pianos, wind chimes and bells would create such a mesmerizing and powerful sound. It was unreal. It began to resemble the soundtrack from a Sci-Fi film. Constant ringing and echo from the bells and xylophone was broken by the beating of the piano, sometimes replacing the sound of drums. Hollow wind chimes were played with a bow to make a whooping sound. The sounds went back and forth as if speaking to each other. It was unlike anything that I had ever heard.

D-day Baby, written by **Scott Godin** was an aggressive mix of loud and soft with no consistency. You never knew what sound was next; it made you jump throughout the piece. The sounds from the pianos and drums were in constant change. The name *D-day* suits this: the music seemed to imitate the sounds of war. The music created a picture and a story inside the listener's mind.

Aeolian Braid by **Howard Bashaw** was based on wind chimes, which were unfortunately played on a recording. The 21 wind chimes, the largest being about 7 feet tall, were not there due to space and traveling restrictions. It was fascinating nonetheless. The piano accompanying the chimes made it a flowing, soothing song. The progression between loud and soft created, at times, the illusion of wind and even breaking glass.

The Tunnel by **Kim Helweg** was inspired by a photograph of a car accident. The name refers to the tunnel people seem to fall through when having a near-death experience. The pianos were joined by the continuous beat of drums. The song evoked a feeling of calm and excitement at the same time; perhaps this resembles the feeling of the "tunnel of light."

umGcomo, a Zulu title, was written by **Malcolm Forsyth**; the capitalized "G" in the name is pronounced as a "click" and means drums. Tympanis, bells and, most important, slit drums were played with the pianos. Slit drums look similar to a xylophone but the special wood it's made from produces a high pitched clicking. The song was booming, energetic and forceful. Its story was suspenseful, like a fight followed by a triumph coming happy unison at the end.

Hammerhead Consort was a fusion of jazzy craziness with classical instruments creating an incredibly surreal sound. It seemed made for film – music that describes something with the sounds as words in a conversation. The music had more feeling than any human speech.

Hammerhead Consort played at The Music Gallery on Saturday, October 2, 2004. This performance was recorded and will be played on CBC Radio Two 94.1FM on Sunday, November 28, 2004 at 10:05 pm.

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Features

North American Culture...

Lucas Cooper Melbye, a UTM student who recently returned from a trip in the Middle East, shares his views on North American culture.

In my opinion, our culture can be generalized as the needs and wants of the post-industrial nuclear family that is so common to the media and markets of North America. It is brand name jeans and reality TV. It is processed food and excess garbage that poisons ourselves and our environment. It is mundane complaints that turn everyday things, such as gas prices and celebrity gossip, into serious issues.

Our culture is a symbol of why the under-developed world loves to dislike us. We radiate success. But our wealth shows that evil can exist at any level and that good things don't always come to those with good intentions. We have lots and we give little. We divide power and praise to occupy our shallow minds and defer thoughts of solving the world's problems instead of creating them.

It would take little effort to use North America's spiraling wealth to aid the sick. With obesity rates sky high and food in abundance, world hunger should not be so blissfully ignored.

Instead of a greedy capitalistic society that craves money and power, we must be a symbol of love and support. It cannot be a gift of pity but rather a share of fortune. We deserve nothing more than any other person that has the same capacity to love. The problem is fueled by ignorance. The solution is that we must take care of each other during our short time on this precious earth. Everyone is so convinced that the problem is 'out there'. I think it's time to start thinking through a different paradigm.

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Fiction

The Other Life

By Khadine Chatoor

The waning moon disappeared almost instantly as I opened the window. I stared out at a narrow, concentrated view of the world. My piercing eyes tried to recapture the moon's midnight glory, but it only hid in disdain. Sighing heavily from disappointment, I stumbled backwards, and towards my most uncomfortable bed. I was growing so accustomed to hearing my bed's squeaky cries. As my bare legs grazed the bed's cold surface, I was overcome with fear. I felt him. His presence was all too familiar. The small room in which I was enclosed made sure I heard his heartbeat.

"Why have you come?"

His tall lean presence haunted me. His body was unnaturally pale. As always, he failed to speak. With trembling hands I scoured for the door. The door knob wouldn't budge. I could innately feel him drawing nearer. I wanted to scream for help, but I knew people would refuse to hear me, or worse, they would refuse to believe me. His fiery eyes burned my skin. I could feel his hatred washing over me like a defiant heat. I must get out!

For those wretched seconds of panic I fruitlessly pulled at the door until my searching eyes spotted a key tucked beneath the door. They must have dropped it. Without hesitation, I grasped it and nervously unlocked the door. With unsteady hands, I pushed opened the door. The pleasurable relief that swept over me was temporary.

I ran with great force, my bare feet thumped hard and fast along the tile corridor that seemed endless. For a brief and haunting second, I glanced over my shoulder.

His darkened shadow flickered against the walls. I ran harder. When I turned my head straight, my neck jolted into a harsh retraction. They found me. They were cold and indifferent.

"He came back!" I screamed. My lips quivered and tasted salty with tears.

"Shh," they said. I knew what was next.

Forced into that same old car, my fate was now predictable. I retreated into my seat with solemn silence.

"I don't want to go," I noted softly.

The driver turned to me and said,

"You mustn't be afraid, it will all come to an end soon."

Perplexed and dismal, I turned to the lady beside me. The car thrust into speed and swerved off the highway. We nose dived into the glistening waters below. The kind lady beside me squeezed my hands and smiled ambiguously at this horrific tragedy. Suddenly, I felt my body being sucked down into an angry eddy of unforgiving water. There was no struggle, no splash. My body was conditioned to this experience. The rescue was effortless as one of them pulled me above the water and into the light. The light quickly revealed itself as the dim, flicking light of the bathroom.

Why am I in a bathtub? I looked around and saw nurses adamant to administer care. I watched as they worked uniformly like drones.

I sat dazed until the kind lady explained my unfortunate severe condition. Visual Agnosia. It seems I was subject to mistaking inanimate objects for persons, like in my room. What I perceived to be a man was indeed, shameful enough to say, my fireplace.

How could I have been so wrong? That old car was really a wheelchair. The glistening waters of the ocean were really waters in a bathtub. These revelations slowly decreased my sense of self. I felt utterly hopeless.

They weren't so indifferent after all; the kind lady tucked me in that squeaky bed and closed the door to my empty room. Her eyes showed signs of weariness in expectation that it will all happen again tomorrow night. I felt like a burden. In some ways I was. I was living outside myself. As I tried to painfully fall asleep, the revelations of the day probed needlessly at my brain. My weeping lids slowly fell into that slumber I longed for, I pretended not to see the man with the fiery eyes, and as I drifted I unconsciously prepared for the morning. I prepared for a whole new adventure.

Inside Beslan: Accounts of Officials & Witnesses

By Anastasia Trofimova

On September 1, 2004, millions of children across Russia started their first day of school. Beslan, a quiet city with a tradition of having entire families see their children off to their first day of school, gathered about 1340 people for the opening ceremony of school N1.

The neighboring apartment building had several windows facing the schoolyard, so that a man living in one of those apartments had a clear view. He was one of the first to hear the loud pops.

"At first I thought the kids were setting off firecrackers. But when I looked outside, I saw men jumping from trucks, firing weapons. For some reason, I started counting them. I counted 27. Later, when 17 were reported on the news, I thought, 'no, where did you get that number?'"

After raiding the school, the terrorists shoved the crowd of children, their families, and teachers into the school's gymnasium.

"Many were wounded during the first few minutes. About 20 tried to resist attack. They were killed and left lying in the schoolyard. Some of the wounded from the gym were removed and executed in the hallway" recounted Galina Dzandarova, a 27 year old hostage.

In the panic, some of the crowd escaped and hid behind the school fence.

"We wanted to see what happened to our children" said the grandmother of a hostage. More hostages were executed in the next hour.

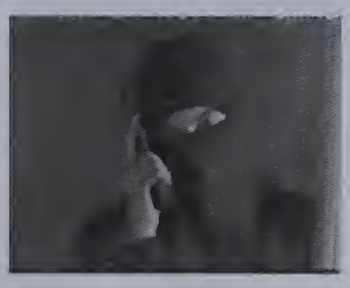
"The terrorists picked the strongest men, took them upstairs, and shot them. They came back and told us it will happen to us and that we can go upstairs and look at the dead bodies of our husbands" stated another victim of the hostage taking.

"For three days, about 1100 of us sat almost on top of each other. Time to time the terrorists would come into the gym, and for laughs, tell everyone to either stand, or lie down. The children were dehydrated, some covered with blood, and all were weak. Some whispered to me, 'Auntie, can I have some water?' I couldn't even give them that" said Marina Kozireva, hostage and mother of a second grade child.

"The children were much calmer than the adults. When the adults talked, many of them were executed."

The hostages were told that no one would be allowed to enter the school, and that they would all die.

"They were filming us and throwing the tapes out the window. Some took clothes off the boys, dipped them into a mop bucket, and threw the wet clothes to us with the words 'Drink!'" Kozireva said.



Marat Hamaev, a fifteen year old hostage said,

"A bomb hung above us. The terrorists were arguing about something. I know Chechen, and they weren't speaking Chechen. It sounded more like Arabic or Ingush. One of the terrorists read from the Koran. The leader was always on the roof with a sniper rifle. The senior students were made to carry desks and barricade the windows."

A major explosion marked a sharp end to the hostage situation. There are two accounts for the explosion. Some say the mechanism was set off by accident. Others claim the bomb was set off because of a conflict among the terrorists. Some reported that certain terrorists were against holding children as hostages.

"The explosion happened under the roof. I saw the bomb hanging from a tape. I was sitting right under it. But before it exploded, I walked off. After it blew, I looked at the people who were sitting with me before I walked away. All dead. I carried out two girls. One second grader and one from sixth (grade). They were heavy, and it was hard to carry them."

The hostages mistook the explosion for signs of a raid from Russian troops, and a mass panic started.

"After the bomb exploded, one of the terrorists screamed, 'I will save you, I will save you!' Everyone ran to him. Then he blew himself up, and many people died" said Hamaev.

Millions of TV viewers in Canada saw live coverage on CBC. The coverage showed figures running from the school being shot at by terrorists. The moment was too quick, so CBC could not cut off that live shot. However, it was not re-broadcasted.

> "The terrorists were arguing about something. I know Chechen, and they weren't speaking Chechen. It sounded more like Arabic or Ingush."
> - Marat Hamae

"After the explosion I figured I could throw my daughter from the window so that she could run away. After I did, I thought to myself, 'Well, now I can die'. But then I saw shots fired in the school yard, so I jumped after her to protect her. That's how I ran away" Kozireva said.

As rounds came from the

school, aimed at the running children, the Russian troops fired back at the terrorists. Russian officials say they hoped for a verbal resolution. Hostages were sent to different hospitals in the region. At one point, enraged relatives and bystanders spotted a terrorist who had been captured by Russian militia. He was ripped out of his captors hands by a mass of people and subsequently beaten to death. Other terrorists tried to escape by changing into civilian clothing and firing back at the pursuing terrorists.

The principal of the school recognized one of the hijackers as a construction worker, hired by the school last summer. He and several others are believed to have brought explosives and ammo into the school a year before the attack. Ammunition was was hidden under the school floor.

The horror of Beslan is not over. Several days ago, a mother of one of the student victims killed herself, after recognizing her son's body. Special concern was expressed for the survivors and their families, and they are being closely monitored by psychologists, who say that a mass wave of suicides is dangerously probable across Beslan.

All photos and quotes from www.rbc.ru and www.vestie.ru. Translations by the author

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Sports

Rookies a big part of womens' hoops

By Jack Krist

This year, the number of women trying out for womens' basketball teams reached an all time high. Many first year players came out to the try-outs and many were quite good, making the selection for the three teams quite difficult for coaches David Jiang and Stephanie Kishimoto.

The tri-campus team has four rookies and they are all being counted on to make significant contributions to the team this year. Rookie Laura Desveaux looked very impressive throughout the try-outs bu, sprained her ankle in the team's first practice. When healed, the tri-campus squad is hoping Desveaux will help improve the teams scoring this year. The team lost former starter and co-captain Marija Kosovski to graduation. Kosovski averaged over twenty points a game last year in league play.

Rookie point guard Arlene Valladolid and third year point guard Jen Sotodeh, who moved up from the division one team last year, will strengthen the guard position.

This year's team is built for speed and opponents should be prepared to run all game long. The team will play their first exhibition game against OCAA Seneca College on October 5, facing Seneca's always tough womens' varsity team.

The womens' division one team got off to a great start for the 2004 fall season with a 57-22 win over SKULE last Wednesday night. Armed with ten players, the UTM team was able to play with two lineups for the entire game. Great defensive pressure all game held the engineering team to only ten points in the first half and twelve in the second. UTM had a well balanced scoring attack, something the team lacked last year. Eight of the ten players scored points for UTM. Steph Kishimoto led UTM in scoring with 15, Lindsey Sones added 12, while Arlene Valladolid, Seema Adatia and Hitomi Kobayashi each had 6. With only one true post player at the game for UTM, Diana Kwong played big, keeping the taller SKULE players off the boards.

The womens' division two team played one of the strongest teams in their division to open the season. New College had two players who played tri-campus last year and a few who look like they will make one of the two tri-campus teams this year.

UTM has a completely different look from last year and with only a few returning players, the team will need time to gel. For a first time effort, not ever having played together as a team, the UTM did quite well, but lost in the end by a score of 31-18.

If you missed the try-outs for basketball this semester, there will be a whole new set of try-outs for division 1 and 2 winter teams starting on January 4, 2005.

Eagles get Skuled

photos/ Denyse Gibson

UTM scrumed with Skule A, ran from Skule A, jumped with Skule A, and in the end, lost to Skule A.

Lady Eagles kick off season on the right foot

By Rafiq Hakim

On September 26, the division one womens' soccer team began the year with expectations of a great game and a great season. Their first opponent of the season was Skule, and the lady Eagles did not disappoint, disposing of Skule 2-1.

The Skule team arrived slightly late with only nine players and was forced to play the game short staffed. Right from the opening whistle UTM pressured Skule and created many turnovers that resulted in some great scoring chances. While chances to score were abundant, UTM couldn't seem to capitalize on them.

Stephanie Wagler created chance after chance but hit numerous posts and had a great breakaway opportunity that was stopped fantastically by the Skule goal keeper. Shannon Lisboa was wiring shots from every angle and just missed the net on several occasions.

UTM played most of the first half on the attack since the defense did a stellar job of shutting down the opposition's offense. In the first half, the UTM defense led by veterans and assited by rookies, were able to hold Skule to only one shot against the UTM keeper, Amanda Hewitt.

The second half started just as the first half with many chances. The Eagles could not capitalize until ten minutes into the second half when Gulsah Iyigun took a Beckham-like shot from 25 yards out that curved into the top, left side of the net.

Once UTM scored the first goal, the team relaxed and it resulted in a goal from the Skule midfielder. With the score tied, UTM needed to step up.

UTM's star midfielders increased their intensity and kept pressuring the Skule team with great runs and crosses, trying to energize the rest of the team. The wingers contributed greatly by sneaking into the openings on the left and right sides, taking shots that just went wide of the net. With five minutes left in the half, UTM was awarded a corner kick, trying to break the 1-1 deadlock. Gulsah sent the corner kick into the 6-yard box where Ashley Gatto got her foot on the ball and scored to put UTM up 2-1.

After the goal the coaches decided it was time for a change, so they sent Candice James to the sweeper position. The switch had an immediate impact as James was able to stop a breakaway in the dying moments of the game, when she used a hard tackle to stop a great chance for Skule. The final whistle blew with UTM victorious over Skule 2-1.

The score made the game seem closer than it was, as UTM out shot their opponents by a large margin. The Lady Eagles played a great game with fierce intensity and are looking forward to the next game against St. Mikes.

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Eagles soccer squad wins home opener 4-1

Speed and physical play key to victory

BY MICHAEL SINGH

The tri-campus mens' soccer team must have been watching their division two brothers, as they too walked to a win in their home opener. The tri-campus squad beat St. George handily, 4-1. Led by pressure, hard tackling, and energy, the Eagles were able to outlast a St. George team that looked slower and slower as the game progressed.

The game started off with up and down action; with both teams applying pressure and working hard towards the important first goal. The pressure paid off for St. George as Chris Racette was able to knock one past the UTM keeper, Adam Parisi. UTM seemed disorganized early in the game, leading to pressure from St. George. However, this would not last for the rest of the game. Sami Gideon was able to bring UTM back in the game with great individual play mirrored by the great play by the men around him. The pressure applied by UTM resulted in a post hit by Gideon, but on the very next sequence he made good on his chance, putting one by the St. George keeper Jason Riff.

The pressure from UTM continued to result in scoring chances as Nick Emini had a chance from the side of the net but missed. Gideon was able to pot his second of the game on a beautiful effort. Gideon outraced two defenders down the middle and shot it passed the goal keeper to give UTM the 2-1 lead.

The game was a physical one, marked by hard tackling and constant contact in the middle of the field. At the end of the half, the score was 2-1 for UTM.

The Eagles came out firing in the second half, pressuring St. George into making mistakes, one of which almost ended up in a goal. A shot by UTM rolled across the net, just going wide of the far left post.

At this point, the St. George team decided it was time to take to the offensive, and committed many players to the offensive zone. This backfired, however, as UTM was able to spring Ibrahim Aboghodieh on a breakaway. Aboghodieh used his speed to separate from the defense and was able to chip the ball over the goal keeper's head, giving UTM a 3-1 lead.

St. George was unable to maintain any pressure in the second half, as UTM constantly tackled and blocked passes. UTM put the game away in the final minutes when Emini got the goal he missed early, by outworking two defenders in front the net, turning and blasting a shot by the keeper.

UTM dominated most of the game, as St. George could not sustain any pressure to score goals. The Eagles were flying in this game and look to continue their winning ways in their next game against Scarborough College.

photo/ Denyse Gibson

A UTM player deftly intercepts a mid-air pass meant for the opposing team.

photo/ Denyse Gibson

Itashim Juanbocus takes on St.George defender. UTM would go on to win 4-1.

Winless field hockey

GEMMA CASSIDY

Women's field hockey got off to an exciting start last Saturday in an intense game against UTM's rivals from the far east, U of T at Scarborough College (UTSC). The defending champion UTM Eagles played aggressively and dominated most of the match with the ball in the offensive end, however, difficulties were met when trying to overcome positioning problems in front of the net.

The match ended in a 1-1 tie, but was a great debut for all six rookies. The rookies on the team showed great determination and offensive maneuvers. Goalie, Heather Sabiston, had a good game as well, with little trouble clearing shots from UTSC out of the way. Veteran's Alison Thomas, Sara Moir, Ashley Juchavic, and Natalie Ng played great offensively while midfielder Deanna Bubola had good hits to the front. All in all, it was a great start to the season.

The lady eagles faced Innis/Trinity in their second match of the season on Thursday, and although great effort was made by the team, they lacked speed and determination at critical times during the game. Ending in a 3-2 loss for UTM, the lady eagles played well despite the loosing, with both goals being pushed in by Alison Thomas. The team is looking forward to a good season and has high hopes for their home game to be played this coming Saturday.

University of Toronto at Mississauga
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905-828-3714 - www.utm.utoronto.ca/physed - email: ath@utm.utoronto.ca

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